

Washington, DC (June 6, 2011) – In the wake of several major disasters and with hurricane season under way, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09) will hold a Congressional field hearing on June 10 in Clearwater to hear from state, local and non-governmental officials about successes and challenges they face as they work to address emergencies (witnesses listed below).

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, Bilirakis is responsible for making sure the country is prepared for potential disasters.

"Communities throughout the U.S. this year have experienced thwarted terrorist plots, severe winter storms, tornadoes, flooding, and a tsunami, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted that we will have an above average hurricane season," Bilirakis said. "We cannot prevent natural disasters from happening, so we must continue to ensure effective preparedness and response efforts for when they do happen."

**WHO:** Rep. Gus Bilirakis, other Members of Congress

**WHAT:** Field Hearing, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications

**WHEN:** Friday, June 10, 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Clearwater City Hall, 112 S. Osceola Avenue, Clearwater, Florida 33756

### **Witnesses Include:**

**Bryan Koon**, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management

**Linda Carbone**, CEO, Tampa Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross

**Chauncia Willis**, Emergency Coordinator, City of Tampa

**Jerry Smith**, Director, Lake County Emergency Management and President, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association

**Nancy Dragani**, Executive Director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, testifying on behalf of the National Emergency Managers Association

**John E. "Rusty" Russell**, Director, Huntsville-Madison County (AL) Emergency Management Agency, testifying on behalf of International Association of Emergency Managers